

**REMARKS**

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 92-105 are currently pending.

All the claims are rejected in view of Georges (US Patent No. 6,941,037). Georges has an effective US filing date of October 20, 2000. However, the present application claims foreign priority to Japanese application 2000-002655 filed January 11, 2000. Accordingly, the foreign priority date of the present application is before the effective US filing date of George.

Therefore, the right of foreign priority is hereby asserted to overcome Georges, and thereby overcome all the rejections.

Moreover, the Examiner correlates the dispersion compensating fiber (DCF) 6 of George to a first compensator having a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths as recited, for example, in claim 92. However, a DCF has a wavelength dispersion characteristic as indicated, for example, by curve 102 in FIG. 10 of the present application. A DCF does not have a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths. Please note that curve 103 in FIG. 10 of the present application shows an example of a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths such as that provided, for example, by a VIPA. See, for example, page 15, lines 1-5, of the present application.

**II. CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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